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## U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney Southern District of New York

The Silvio J. Mollo Building One Saint Andrew's Plaza New York, New York 10007

January 29, 2008

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500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007

The Honorable Alvin K. Hellerstein

United States District Judge Southern District of New York

> <u>United States</u> v. <u>Frank Rodriguez</u> Re: 07 Cr. 845 (AKH)

Dear Judge Hellerstein:

I write to request an adjournment of the plea that is scheduled for today, January 29, 2008. February \$,2008.

This morning, I received a message from counsel for the defendant, Ronald Aiello, indicating that he was released from the hospital in the past few days after major surgery. Court knows from prior correspondence, Mr. Aiello has been dealing with significant health problems in recent months.) Aiello indicated in the message that he will be recuperating until about March 1, 2008. He thus requests that the plea be rescheduled for some time after that date.

The Government also requests that the Court exclude time until a control date of March 30, 2008, or in the alternative the date the Court selects for the plea. The Government submits that such exclusion is warranted pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 8161(h)(8)(A). Specifically, the ends of justice outweigh the best interest of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial because it affords the defendant the opportunity to receive

MEMO ENDORSED

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effective assistance of counsel in connection with his plea.

Very truly yours,

MICHAEL J. GARCIA United States Attorney

William J. Harrington

Assistant United States Attorney

212-637-2331

Ronald Aiello (by fax) cc: Counsel for the defendant